SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI)
Department of Transportation (DOT)
Guidelines and Requirements for Appropriations Submissions

Rail infrastructure projects are capital projects eligible under the CRISI program authorized in section 22907 of title 49, United States Code. CRISI provides grants to assist in financing the cost of improving passenger and freight rail transportation systems. All projects must be:

- Rail capital projects or systems planning for a rail capital project;
- Supported by the state, local governmental authority, or Tribal government that would administer the project; and
- Sponsored by public entities or Tribal entities.

This is a new Community Project Funding account for Fiscal Year 2024. The Subcommittee will not fund activities that are administrative in nature even if they are eligible expenses under the statutory citation. These include but are not limited to general operating expenses, rail-related research, and workforce activities.

The Committee strongly encourages Members' offices to reach out to the project sponsor (i.e., public agency) to determine the eligibility and viability of their projects. Projects will be subject to various Federal requirements such as competition in contracting, Buy America, and the National Environmental Policy Act.

For each CRISI request, Members will need to provide specific information through the electronic database. The database will include the following questions to assist the Subcommittee in vetting and selecting projects. The Chair may require additional information from your office.

Demonstration of Community Support:

Demonstration of community support for a project is crucial for determining whether it should receive funding. Projects must have substantial evidence of community support to be considered for funding. Community support documentation can include: letters from elected officials and community groups, local transportation or community development plans, publications (including news articles), and any other documents that demonstrate public support for the project.

Community Project Funding (CPF) Questions for CRISI Projects:

1. **Project Name.**

   A short name by which the project may be identified, including a very brief description of what the funds will be used for and the project's location. This description may be used in the

House report and must be accurate to ensure funds are provided to the correct project and location.

EXAMPLE*: West Elm Track and Railroad Bridge Improvements, City, State, Congressional District.*

2. **Project Recipient.**

As a reminder, for-profit entities are **not** eligible for CPF funding. The recipient must be a public entity such as a state department of transportation, public agency, or not-for-profit rail carrier that provides intercity rail passenger transportation, etc.

3. **General description and scope of project, including benefits and explanation for why project is a priority.**

   EXAMPLE: *The West Elm Track and Railroad Bridge Improvements Project will replace an aging railroad bridge and rehabilitate 11 sidings and wye tracks that can handle increased traffic along the main rail route between the cities of Green Bay and Pembine. The improvements will increase the efficiency of the route by eliminating slow-orders along 32 miles of track and help mitigate congestion along the track to increase safety. It is a priority for both cities given the limited resources they have to fully fund the project.*

4. **Amount of CPF funding requested for project.**

5. **Total project cost.**

   Provide the total estimated cost of the project.

6. **Does the project have other public (federal, state, local) and/or private funds committed to meet match or cost-share requirements for costs related to construction? if so, what is the source and amount of those funds?**

   The cost-share requirements are defined in statute. Rail capital projects under the CRISI program require a minimum 20 percent non-federal share.

   EXAMPLE: *Local sales taxes are committed for 20 percent of the project.*

7. **If the project receives less than requested, will the project still proceed without waiting for additional funding sources?**

8. **Provide a history of federal funding for the project, if any. Include formula funds and any discretionary grants.**

   EXAMPLE: *FY20 BUILD Discretionary Grant of $7.5 million.*

9. **Where is the project in the construction process?**

   Drop down options in the database will include: Planning and Environmental Review, Final Design, Right of Way, Contract Awarded, Capital Purchase or Lease, Construction, and Other (please specify).

10. **Estimated start and completion dates.**

11. **Is the project on a state rail plan as of 12/31/2022? If yes, provide a link to the plan and specify page number.**

12. **Is the project included in a grade crossing action plan? If yes, provide a link to the plan and specify page number.**